

**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 6, 2012**

The Common Council, City of Madison, Indiana, met in regular session at 5:30 PM in the Council Chamber, City Hall. Mayor Welch opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims of the recent tornados especially those from Jefferson County. Mayor Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present; Hodges, Berry, Jones, Henderson, Backus, Lee, Kellems (7). Absent (0).

Motion made by Hodges to accept the February 21, 2012 minutes with the correction of John Patchin's name. Seconded by Kellems. Motion carried (7-0).

Mayor Welch took a moment to offer thoughts and prayers to those affected by the storms. The best way to help at this time is monetary donations. The Clerk Treasurer's office informed Welch of a Community of Compassion Fund that could be available. There is just over \$7000.00 in it. It was set up for either hurricane Katrina or Ike. Would like to take a portion of that money and make sure it is applied locally. There will be a report at the next meeting.

Mayor Welch called Councilwoman Hodges up while he read a Proclamation for The Girl Scouts 100 year celebration. He recognized Girl Scout Troop # 387 in the audience.

Mayor Welch also read a proclamation for Author Appreciation Week. Frank Hall, owner of That Book Place will have an author signing on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Forty authors from around the country are expected to attend.

**First Reading**

**Tree Ordinance**

Randy Eggenpiller explained that the Tree Board has wanted to do an amendment to the tree ordinance. Originally the tree maintenance was under the Historic Board years ago. The majority of the trees were on public spaces or along public streets. There was never a boundary, so they had requested that the City Attorney do so.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-5**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**OF THE CITY OF MADISON, INDIANA**  
**AMENDING TREE ORDINANCE NO. 1995-3**

This ordinance would amend Ordinance No. 1995-3.

Report from the finance committee. Henderson reported that they would like to go ahead with a second reading. The committee would like public guidelines, need to decide if the council wants to move forward with a loan program or both loan programs. There is going to be a lot of hard work put into these guidelines.

Beth Black with the Main Street Program gave a yearly update. She started by introducing Bob Ems the President of the Main Street Program. An overview of what was accomplished in 2011, offered 2 Main Street meet and greets in May & September, held an independent movie event, three film series about local food, six months of WIKI/WORX live programs, sponsored BSU charrette workshop, sponsored Music in the Park, window design workshop, South of Main Art in the alley, tax credit workshop, research workshop, courthouse rededication, 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Art Jams, and sponsored Blowing the Roof-Off Workshop. Have been working with the Chamber of Commerce, Visit Madison, Office of Historic Preservation and Cornerstone. Have lots of things going for 2012. Would like to thank Mayor and Council for their support.

**Randy Eggenpiller-**

Harrison Street & E. First Street Water Project was rebid. At the Board of Public Works meeting, the bid was awarded to low bidder Sedam Contracting. The bid was for the replacement of a very old water main that runs through the center of Harrison Street from Second to Filmore Alley. Greenhill addition sewer- we are taking bids which will include two lift stations. Backus asked for a word with Eggenpiller after the meeting concerning this.

**Dan Thurston-**

Update on the Police Department's involvement in the tornado and storms. When severe weather was reported, spotters were sent to four different locations. After the weather passed, Sheriff Wallace asked for assistance from

officers and fire departments. After helping at the scene in Chelsea, Thurston got back to the PD to find that land line phones were out. There were still 911 services, but no other phones. Would like to apologize to anyone that tried to call during that time. Would like to thank Wal-Mart, Lowes and McDonalds for donating items to victims as well as volunteers. Served as escort for McCubbin Motors to take 6 full truckloads of supplies to Chelsea. February statistics are on the tables. Jones asked for a word with Thurston after the meeting.

#### **Dave Stucker-**

Would like to remind everyone that the Parks Department is taking applications for baseball and softball programs. Copies of applications have been dropped off at each of the area schools. Applications will be on the website available for download soon. A photography contest was held by the Parks Department for 5-9 year olds. There were 5 participants. The Park Board was not able to pick a winner, so each participant will receive 5 free days of swimming at Crystal Beach this summer. The participants were: Luke Mullins, Jamie Lee, Darrin Cook, Sylvia Heath & Lillian Heath. The Parks Department is trying to venture out into other things besides sports.

#### **Steve Horton-**

Update on the Fire Department's involvement in the tornado and storms. At 5:30 am, all fire fighters were alerted to the severe weather. At noon, all units were put on standby. After the storm moved through, Sheriff Wallace requested assistance. A survey was taken outside of the immediate area to assess the damage. The Street Department headed out about 5:30 pm and stayed for approximately 3 hours.

Tomorrow is the ECO15 IPOD event at Ivy Tech. The Fire Department will be participating.

Mayor Welch asked Horton where people should go in case of severe weather. Horton stated that he was informed by EMA Director Bell that there are no places in the City of Madison or Jefferson County that meet state requirements for severe weather shelters. They are required to withstand a F5 tornado. Welch suggested that you make a plan before a storm hits. If someone privately wants to offer their basement then that is fine.

**Andrew Forrester-**

Madison applied for a Stellar Community Grant, but we did not make the final cut. We have learned a lot from this experience and will use what we have learned for next year. Will be attending the IPOD event. Will be talking about city government. The social media and texting has started. A presence has been made on Facebook, Twitter and You Tube. Introduced Alec Lichlyter who will be the social media manager.

**Alec Lichlyter-**

There is a blog started for the city. To read the blog, go to the city's website [www.madison-in.gov](http://www.madison-in.gov) and social icons are on that page. Looking at ways right now to utilize these websites to their full potential according to the way they were meant to be used. Would like to highlight local businesses, help create a transparent government, and to interact with the citizens of Madison.

**Mark Johnson-**

The building season has started. There are two issues being worked on. One is an illegal driveway cut and the other is a flower bed that is protruding into the street. The contractor was stopped on the driveway cut and a letter has been sent to the home owner on the flower bed.

**BILLS ON SECOND READING**

2010-7 Summer Sewer Rates-Lee, the author of the bill, asked to withdraw the bill. He will resubmit one with a different formulation.

2011-11 Establishing a 3-Way Stop at Ferry and Vaughn Streets.

After a meeting with the bridge project engineer, Mayor Welch asked that this be taken off the table. Backus made a motion to take off the table, seconded by Lee. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-4**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE**  
**CITY OF MADISON, INDIANA ESTABLISHING**  
**TEMPORARY THREE-WAY STOP FOR TRAFFIC AT THE**  
**INTERSECTION OF FERRY STREET AND VAUGHN DRIVE**  
**AND NO PARKING ALONG FERRY STREET**

Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules and go to the third reading, seconded by Kellems. All in favor, motion carried (7-0). Third reading by Jenner. Roll Call Vote, all in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-3**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF**  
**THE CITY OF MADISON, INDIANA ESTABLISHING AN**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

Mayor Welch stated that he was on the council when these loans made headlines and agreed with the previous administration to suspend the loan programs. I felt that this was the direction the council wanted to go. He thanked Bob Cooke for all of the time he has put in researching material.

Henderson noted that it is easier to get negative comments than it is positive. The EDP loan program has been established for 27 years and it has worked well. The microloan program is the one that had the problems. If you ask yourself should the city be involved in loaning money the first answer that comes to mind is no, but if you look at the loans over the years, it has been successful. We need to be open minded and look at all of the facts before a decision is made.

Lee stated that he had a problem with the way that this ordinance is set up. Does not like the fact that you have to repeal and replace with one vote. Lee commented that he is for repealing, but not replacing. We don't want to give a loan to someone that would come in and put an existing business out of business. Lee has a problem with the City getting into the banking business.

Kellems stated that the finance committee meeting was cut short due to the storms last Friday. Kellems was not fully ready to discuss this. Kellems had 21 questions that he had hoped to get answered at the meeting and that did not happen. Kellems also favored two votes instead of just one. This would be worthwhile to table until some of the questions are answered.

Hodges concurred with the need to table this ordinance for at least one more meeting to let the finance committee have a chance to finish their meeting. Hodges stated that the loan program is a good tool to have to be competitive with

surrounding counties. The guidelines need to be tightened for this to continue to be a successful program.

Berry commented that we have all heard of crony capitalism. That is where the government picks winners and losers in business. It is not the responsibility of the government to loan money or to get involved in business.

Backus stated that he was under the impression that the blue ribbon committee would report back to the council and be available to answer questions. He hesitated to make any kind of decision without that happening.

Welch stated that this program is not a handout, it is a debt.

Kellems questioned whether this should be looked at as part of our economic reform package. Is this something that the blue ribbon committee and the economic development committee should look at?

Henderson stated that any EDP would want this in their pocket. It is not a handout. The record over the last twenty years is not bad. We have more money than we had twenty-seven years ago, so the program is not a failure.

Lee commented that it is very difficult to mix political aspects and money. It is a difficult job running the city and when we add in other things like money, it does strange things to people.

Jenner would like to talk to the finance committee about if the loan program is done away with, what happens to the money. Does it go back into the general fund?

Henderson believes the easiest thing to do is get out of the loan business, but is it the right thing to do? It has worked in the past.

Welch opened the floor for public comment.

Bob Ems, President of Madison Main Street Program- pointed out that there are bank loans you can get for buying a building, but sometimes a different source needs to be found to start a business in that building.

Warren Auxier-liked the idea of separation of repeal and approval. The loan program was originally run so that the banks participated in the process and only a small percentage of the money actually came from the city.

Sharon Daghir, MPS Printing-There are a couple of things to consider. All businesses big and small are important. Often times a small business would not survive in a big town, is an intricate part of a small town.

Rick Ruess-Loans are cancer and should not happen. If you have a good idea, get investors. You need to quit stealing my money and giving it to someone else.

Ralph Vogel-Would like to remind Council and Mayor that Madison does consist of places other than downtown.

Kellems made a motion to table Ordinance No. 2012-3, seconded by Henderson. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

## **Miscellaneous**

Lee expressed his concern on how and when names are chosen to acknowledge achievement of city projects.

Kellems asked about the progress of getting the expenses and revenues on the website.

Welch stated that we are working with Clerk Treasurer Kalb and we are moving forward.

Lichlyter stated that a host is trying to be found for the website.

Kellems brought up the lighting, sound and capacity of the Council Chambers. Welch confirmed that bids are being sought, but money is an issue.

Berry congratulated Shawe Basketball on winning sectionals.

Welch read a statement concerning guidelines for council meetings. It would be greatly appreciate it if the public would call the mayor's office the Thursday

before the meeting. This would allow the agenda to be finalized before sending to the council.

A press release has been sent out about the first meeting of the economic development review panel to be held at Ivy Tech on Thursday at 6:30pm. It will be an organizational meeting and the public is invited.

Motion by Lee to adjourn, seconded by Henderson. All in favor motion carries (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

**APPROVED** \_\_\_\_\_  
**President Pro-Tempore Laura Hodges**

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**William J. Kalb, Clerk-Treasurer**